

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Governor activates National Guard to assist in flood response operations

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard activated more than 120 Soldiers today from the South Dakota National Guard to assist the state in flood response operations in southeast South Dakota.

More than 120 Soldiers from the Guard have been assigned to assist state and local emergency management officials in response to the rise in water levels along the Big Sioux River.

The SDNG is currently moving personnel, dump trucks and support equipment to Union County to assist with levee construction. If required, the Guard may also help with rescue and evacuation, sandbagging and traffic control missions as well.

Gov. Daugaard declared a state of emergency and opened the State Emergency Operations Center early Tuesday morning. The EOC has been working with SDNG officials to coordinate appropriate levels of response.

"The South Dakota National Guard is always willing to support our state in response to emergencies such as this," said Maj. Gen Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "In fact, it's one of the missions we're most proud of."

The SDNG responded to flooding in the Pierre/Fort Pierre and Dakota Dunes areas during the summer of 2011 with more than 1,900 Soldiers and Airmen providing personnel and resources for filling, transporting and distributing sandbags, levee construction, providing security and operating traffic control points, as well as helping stranded citizens threatened by flood waters.

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



140618-Z-CW157-001: Members of the 842nd Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, depart Rapid City, S.D., June 18, 2014, to assist the state in flood response operations in southeast South Dakota. More than 120 Guardsmen and women have been activated to assist state and local emergency management officials in response to the rise in water levels along the Big Sioux River. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)(RELEASED)

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